(b) to (d) The matter has since been brought to the notice of the Employees' Provident Fund Authorities for taking necessary action under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Joint venture in software and personal computers

1132. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up some joint veuture projects in collaboration with Japan in the field of software and personal computers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Nepal Trade Relations

1133. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to improve and expand Indo-Nepal trade relations;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Nepal trade has been established; and

(c) the new areas identified for Indo-Nepal trade; and

(d) the details of the trade pact signed during the recent visit of Nepal Prime Minister to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Governments of India and Nepal are regularly inter-acting with each other to take measures to improve and expand trade relations in the established and new areas for mutual advantage.

The main items of export from India to Nepal include non-basmati rice, tobacco, spices, miscellenous processed items, Coal drugs and pharmaceuticals, refractories/cement etc, wood products, manufactures of metal, machinery and transport equipment, primary and semi-finished iron & steel, cotton yarn & fabrics etc. The main items of import from Nepal include pulses, spices, raw jute, textiles, essential oils and cosmetics, and medicinal and pharmaceutical products.

No trade pact was signed during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India.

कृषि उत्पादों का निर्यात

1134. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:** क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के कृषि उत्पादों के निर्यात में गत वर्षों से लगातार वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1990-91 के दौरान निर्यात किये गये कुल कृषि उत्पादों का प्रतिशत कितना था;

(ग) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान आयातित इन उत्पादों का कुल मूल्य कितना था;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कृषि उत्पादों के उत्पादन को प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु ऐसे उत्पादों की पहचान की है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे कृषि उत्पादों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनके निर्यात में वृद्धि होने की संभावना है तथा इनके उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए भावी योजनाएं क्या-क्या हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान कृषि और सम्बद्ध उत्पादों का निर्यात इस प्रकार रहा है:

(करोड़ रु०)

वर्ष	निर्यात
1992-93	7207.50
1993-94	9720.32
1994-95	9183.36

(स्रोत: डी०जी०सी०आई० एंड एस, कलकत्ता)

(ख) 1990-91 के दौरान कृषि और सम्बद्ध उपायों का निर्यात भारत के कुल निर्यात का 19% था।

(ग) 1994-95 के दौरान 4600.74 करोड़ रुपए के कृषि और सम्बद्ध उत्पादों का आयात किया गया।

(घ) और (ङ) अनेक कृषि उत्पाद जैसे—पुष्पोत्पाद, ताजा फल, टमाटर, पेस्ट उत्पाद, उष्ण कटिबन्धीय फलों का रस, लुगदी और सान्द्रण, प्रसंस्कृत मशरूम, चावल, मसाले, चीनी और शीरा आदि को, मात्रा के रूप में इनके निर्यात की अत्यधिक संभावना के कारण, "अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण" उत्पादों के रूप में अभिज्ञात किया गया है। कृषि निर्यात को अधिक व्यवहार्य बनाने के लिए नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन किए गए। निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रस्तावित प्रोत्साहनों अन्य के साथ-साथ, ये अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेलों में भाग लेना, क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकें आयोजित करना, बाजार विकास अभियान चलाना, उत्पाद विकास में सहायता देना, पैकिंग में सुधार और गुणवत्ता प्रमाणन इत्यादि शामिल होंगे।

State of child workers in the country

1135. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the article in the 'Statesman' of February 2, 1996 that there would be around 25 million child workers in the country by the year 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the present number of child workers and street children (State-wise), particularly in the four metropolitan cities;

(c) the number and details of child labour working in hazardous industries, particularly in the carpet, glass and electroplating industries, as on December 31, 1995 (State-wise); and

(d) the steps Government have taken to save and protect these children from exploitation and by when Government propose to abolish this practice?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Authentic figures on child labour are generated during the decennial census. As per 1981 census, the number of child labour was 13.6 million. The 1991 census data is yet to be released. However, State-wise details of child labour as per 1981 census is at statement (*see* below). Data on child labour industry-wise is not maintained.

(d) Government have already taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, child labour is being tackled through (a) Legislation (b) General Development Programmes for the benefit of children; and (c) implementation of National Child Labour Projects.

A comprehensive law, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. There are protective provisions also in various other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Motor Transport (Workers) Act, 1961 etc. The approach of the Government is to implement all child related provisions of different labour laws in a harmonious fashion.

Government is presently engaged in the task of eliminating child labour in hazardous occupations, which is estimated at 20 lakhs, by the year 2000 A.D. As a part of the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, the Government has been implementing National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in areas of high concentration of child labour. A major activity undertaken under NCLP is the establishment of special school to provide non-formal education vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. So far 70 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned and funds have been released to cover around 1.36 lakh children through more than 2200 special schools in the States of Andhra Pradesh,